

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #11

INCLUDING INSTITUTIONS AND NON-PROFITS IN YOUR PLANNING PROCESS

This issue/question is about entities that would normally not be expected to prepare hazard mitigation plans, since they don't have land use authority or broadly recognized jurisdictions. This includes non-profits and institutions (hospitals, schools, utilities, service providers, etc.) that technically are eligible to apply for HMGP project funds, but now apparently do not meet planning criteria for eligibility. The question is whether the grant is through the planning requirement, therefore shifting responsibility away from such applicants, now to focus mainly on jurisdictional applicants (ones that have specific boundaries and organizations for which planning can be expected) such as counties, cities, villages, townships, and special districts?

There is no change in how institutions and non-profits apply for project funds under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). However, whether under HMGP or Pre-Disaster Mitigation these groups must be involved in the planning process in order to be eligible for project funds. While we realize that this may mean a little more work when their facilities cross jurisdictional boundaries, they should be invited to participate in the planning process for areas in which their facilities are located. This may be as strong as being actively involved in putting the plan together, or as weak as letting the communities know what projects they are considering. At the very least, the institutions and non-profits projects should be included in a community's plan.

Should a disaster occur and new projects be identified by the institutions and non-profits, the community should go back and amend the plan to include those projects.